

**Rituals and Practices for an Inter-Generational
Worshipping Community
Vancouver School of Theology
January 2024**

Thursday January 11	5:30pm – 8:30pm
Friday January 12	2pm– 8:30pm
Saturday January 13	9 am – 4:30pm

Rev. Mary Nichol, Instructor
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PURPOSE:

Faith formation research is pointing us to focus on inter-generational ministry being the heart of the faith community. This short intensive will focus on specific spiritual practices and other rituals that sustain a worshipping community and nurture the faith formation of all ages.

Students will spend time engaging in and leading spiritual practices. We will explore faith formation for a new generation and use rituals and practices in age specific, inter-generational and family context. This course is intended for those already practicing ministry of all ages, those brand new, or those wishing to refresh their skills.

GOALS:

- To practice a variety of ways to use spiritual practices within age specific and inter-generational groups.
- To discuss different methods to incorporate inter-generational approaches to community worship.
- To develop strategies for incorporating spiritual practices into all ages worship, age specific ministry, and faith at home.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Describe rituals and practices for families to grow in faith in their home.
2. Describe rituals and practices used for weekly worship in an inter-generational community.
3. Describe rituals and practices for age specific groups such as youth group, children's group, or an adult small group.
4. Articulate a new holistic model for faith formation.

EXPECTATIONS:

1. We will be onsite and online (via zoom) for our classroom and synchronous only. For those online you will need access to a computer with audio and video and reliable internet. Please arrive on time and be ready to begin reading.
2. Participate in class by actively listening and engaging in thoughtful conversation. As this is a short intensive, there are no unexcused absences, 100% attendance is expected.
3. Bring a spirit of openness to learning and new ideas.
4. Value and respect the opinions and views of all students and the instructor.

REQUIRED READINGS (please read prior to beginning of the course)

All required extracts of books will be posted to the course in *POPULI

Allen, Holly Catterton, Christine Lawton, and Cory L. Seibel. *Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship*, 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2023.

*Kizinna, Doris E. "Compassion." In *Go Deep: Spiritual Practices for Youth Ministry*, 181-202. Kelowna, BC: CopperHouse, 2009.

*Mercer, Joyce Ann. "Practicing Liturgy as a Practice of Justice with Children." In *Welcoming Children: A Practical Theology of Childhood*. St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2005.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

Csinos, David M. *A Gospel for All Ages: Teaching and Preaching with the Whole Church*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2022.

Kizinna, Doris E. *Go Deep: Spiritual Practices for Youth Ministry*. Kelowna, BC: CopperHouse, 2009.

Nye, Rebecca. *Children's Spirituality: what is it and why it matters*. London: Church House Publishing, 2009.

Roberto, John, Lisa Brown, Tanya Eustace Campen, Lynn Barger Elliott, and Lee Yates. *Faith Formation with a New Generation*. Cheshire, CT: Lifelong Faith Publications, 2018.

Smith, Traci. *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home*. St. Louis: Chalice, 2017.

Westerhoff, John H, III. *Will Our Children Have Faith?*, 3rd ed. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse, 2012.

ASSIGNMENTS:

This is a three-day intensive course worth 1.5 continuing education (Certificate) credit hours. It can also be taken as an auditor. Work in the course consists of classes including readings done ahead of the course, discussions, small group exercises, journaling, further assigned reading and assigned paper (for credit students).

For all students: Attendance is expected during all three class sessions. It is assumed that participants will come prepared to engage in the assigned reading and be open to other interactive strategies as we move through each session. Please read all required reading in advance of the course and then simply skim the readings to refresh one's memory before each class. All Students including auditors are expected to do all the required readings and participate in class discussions.

For certificate students: Write 1000-1500 words (4-6 pages) paper in which you design one of the following:

- a. An inter-generational worship service for a community of faith that incorporates some of the rituals and practices explored during class.
- b. A weekend retreat for all ages in which you incorporate some of the rituals and

practices explored during class.

Spend about 1000 words reflecting on the design and include specific learning from at least two of the readings into the rationale for what you design.

For degree students: A paper of 1500-2000 words (about 6-8 pages). Spend about 500 words outlining an event, service or retreat designed to engage an inter-generational group. Then reflect on the theology and pedagogy of the design, using scripture, at least some materials from your own denomination, as well as bringing in personal experience.

Due Date: 8th March

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Beckwith, Ivy. *Formational Children's Ministry: Shaping Children using Story, Ritual, and Relationship*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2010.

Caldwell, Elizabeth, F. *Making a Home for Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of your Children*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2007, revised edition.

Csinos, David M. *Children's Ministry that Fits: Beyond One-Size-Fits-All Approaches to Nurturing Children's Spirituality*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011.

Csinos, David M., ed. *Faith Forward, Volume 3: Launching a Revolution through Ministry with Children, Youth, and Families*. Kelowna, BC: Wood Lake, 2018.

Nye, Rebecca. *Children's Spirituality: what is it and why it matters*. London: Church House Publishing, 2009.

Yaconelli, Mark. *Contemplative Youth Ministry: Practicing the Presence of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Yust, Karen Marie. *Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2004